(b) the response of the private sectors to the new policy initiatives of Government; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating a review of existing policy in the light of past experience?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) During the current financial year, 12.80 lakhs new telephone connections have been provided upto Jan. 31, 1997.

(b) The general response of the private sector is positive.

(c) Review of the National Telecom Policy is not contemplated at present.

Concessional internet connections to educational institutions

438. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the types of INTERNET connection provided by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam;

(b) the charges payable by an internet subscriber for each type of services;

(c) the concession available for an educational institution in each type of services; and

(d) whether Government propose to offer the INTERNET services to the educational institutions free or at a concessional rates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Videsh Sanchar Nigam offers (i) Terminal Dial-up Account, (ii) TCP/IP Account and (iii) Lease line services for accessing Gateway Internet Access Service.

(b) and (c) The information is available at Statement (*See* below)

(d) INTERNET Services to educational institutions are provided at concessional rates as per information given in the Annexure.

Statement

The charges payable by an internet subscriber for each type of services.

(i) Terminal Dial-up

Category	Registration Fee	For a period of one year or 500 Hrs. whichever is earlier
Students	Rs. 50/-	Rs. 500/-
General	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 5000/-

(ii) TCP/IP Service

Category	Registration Fee	For a period of one year or 500 Hrs. whichever is earlier
General	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 15000/-

(iii) *Leased line Service*

Speed	Registration Fee (One-time)	Annual Tariff (Rupees in Lakhs)	
		General	Software Exporter/ 100% EOU
2.4 kbps	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 1.5 lakhs	Rs. 1.2 lakhs
9.6 kbps	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 6 lakhs	Rs. 4.8 lakhs
64 kbps	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 12 lakhs	Rs. 9.6 lakhs
128 kbps	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 18 lakhs	Rs. 14.4 lakhs
256 kbps	Rs. 40,000 lakhs	Rs. 25 lakhs	Rs. 20.0 lakhs
512 kbps	Rs. 40,000/- lakhs	Rs. 36 lakhs	Rs. 28.8 lakhs
1Mbps	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 60 lakhs	Rs. 48.0 lakhs
2Mbps	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 100 lakhs	Rs. 80.0 lakhs

(c)The concession available for an educational institution in each type of service.

Category	Type of Access	Normal charge**	Concessional charge**
Educational Institutions	Terminal dial-up	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 500/-
	TCP/IP	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 5000/-
	64 Kbps leased line and above*	Rs. 12 lakhs	Rs. 4 lakhs

* Tariff for higher bandwidths in multiple of 64 Kbps, will be charged at N×64 Kbps tariff, where N is Multiplication factor of 64 Kbps.

**Registration charge (one-time) extra as in Ans. (b) above.

Representation from Gram Panchayat of Alampuram for Telecom Services

439. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has received any representations from the Gram Panchayat of Alampuram in West Godavari district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps porposed to redress the grievances of the villagers of Alampuram in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether capacity of phones for this village have been enhanced; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve telecom services at West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Alampuram Exchange has been upgraded from 128 lines to 256 lines in 1996-97.

(e) (i) All the MAX-III Exchanges in West Godavari District have been converted into Electronic Exchanges in 1996-97, Replac